



Seattle Parks and Recreation Annual Report

2001



Major Parks and Facilities



Puget
Sound

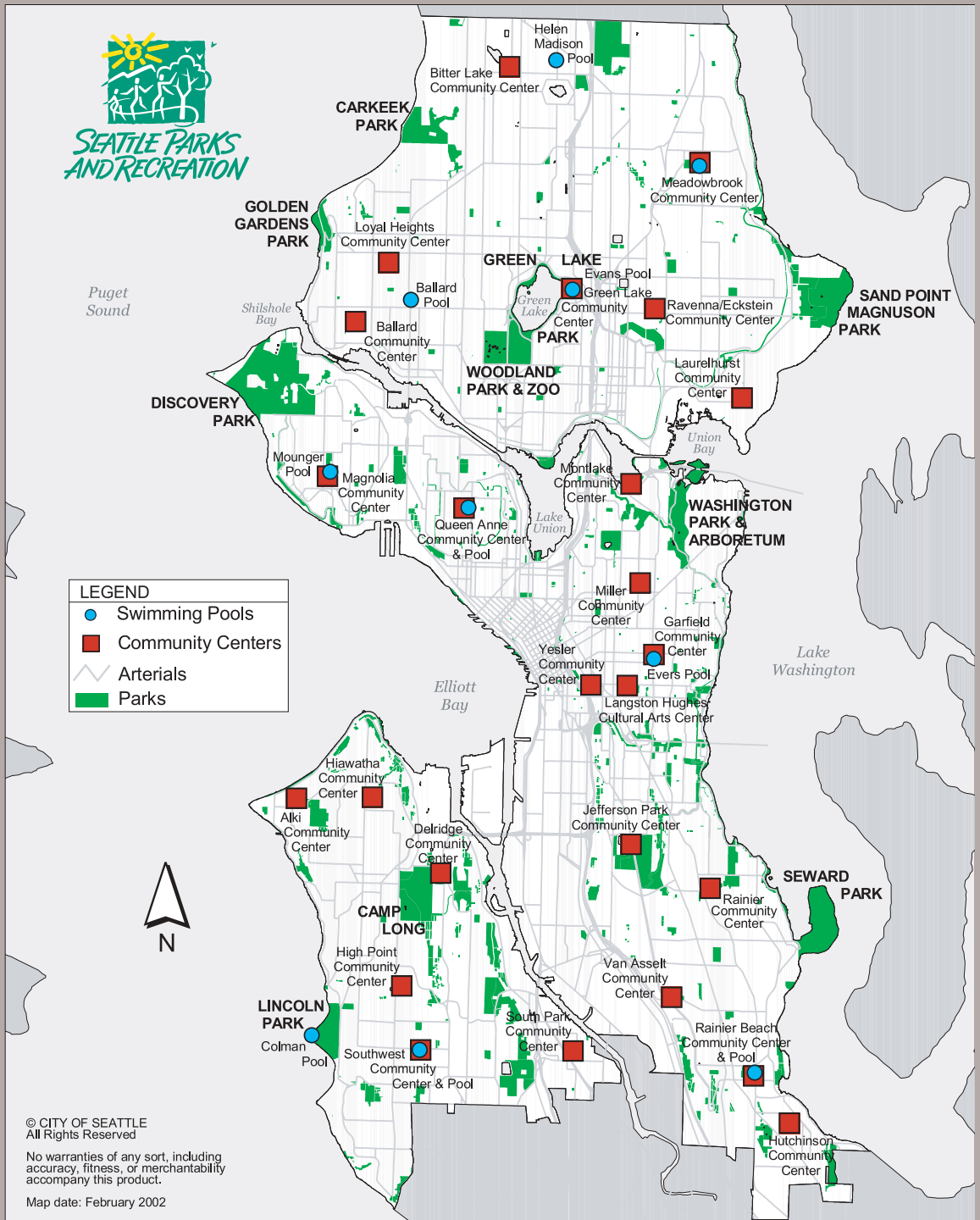
LEGEND	
	Swimming Pools
	Community Centers
	Arterials
	Parks



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Map date: February 2002



Contents

Letter from the Mayor	2	Recreation Programs	15
Letter from the Superintendent	3	Project Lift-Off	15
The Olmsted Legacy	4	Advisory Councils	16
2001 Accomplishments	5	Park Resources	17
Major Projects and Programs	5	Park Inspections	17
2000 Pro Parks Levy	5	Environmental Stewardship	17
Acquisition Projects	6	Volunteer Programs	18
<i>Development Projects</i>	6	Woodland Park Zoo	19
<i>Recreation, Environmental</i>		Seattle Aquarium	20
<i>Stewardship, Enhanced</i>		Partnerships	21
<i>Maintenance</i>	6	2001 Budget/Finances	22
<i>Levy Oversight Committee and</i>		Expenditures	22
<i>Opportunity Fund</i>	7	Revenues	22
1999 Community Center Levy	7	Quick Facts	24
Major Maintenance	9		
Neighborhood Projects	9		
Athletic Fields	10		
Sand Point Magnuson Park	11		
South Lake Union	12		
Arboretum Master Plan	12		
Gray to Green	12		
New Parks	13		
Emergency Response	14		
Seattle Parks Foundation	14		

Mission Statement

Seattle Parks and Recreation will work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment, and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community.



Letter from the Mayor

Dear Friends:

Seattle's parks play an important role in the life of our city. They are places to play, contemplate and to breathe. Every neighborhood has its own special playground, community center or green space.

Taking good care of our parks, gathering places and natural areas is an important part of strengthening Seattle's communities. With your help, we are working hard to keep our parks clean, our community centers lively, our ballfields playable, and our kids occupied with activities that are safe and fun.

Together we can make a difference in people's lives.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Greg Nickels". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Greg Nickels

Mayor of Seattle



Letter from the Superintendent

Dear citizens:

The year 2001 was a momentous one that began for us with a whimsical monolith sculpture appearing on the top of Kite Hill in Sand Point Magnuson Park. Was it a sign of things to come?

In subsequent months, we experienced the collapse of the historic Pergola in Pioneer Square, endured a sizable earthquake, a bad drought, terrorist attacks, and economic recession. Through it all, citizens turned to our precious public spaces for recreation, contemplation and community.

During 2001, we made steady progress in caring for our valuable park land and facilities, and providing quality recreation programs for Seattle residents. We continued to implement the voter-approved 1999 Community Center Levy and the 2000 Pro Parks Levy, which is funding more than 100 park improvements and acquisitions throughout the city. Pro Parks funds also enabled us to expand.

On an equally important front, we repaired and improved parks and park buildings with our crews through the Major Maintenance Program, and we worked with local communities on dozens of projects funded by the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

Our several hundred parks and park facilities are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of park visitors in summer months alone — think of Green Lake or Alki Beach on a sunny summer Sunday afternoon — and well over two million people visit our 24 community centers annually. Thousands of golfers, hikers, soccer players, swimmers and tennis players enjoy their passions. Our popularity presents a continuing challenge to balance uses — people's passions — with a finite amount of space.

This annual report features the highlights and accomplishments from the past year. Under the able direction of Mayor Greg Nickels, I expect a continuation of our commitment to keeping our parks clean and safe, to preserving our natural environment, and to providing high quality recreational programs and classes for people of all ages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Bounds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ken Bounds
Superintendent

The Olmsted Legacy

A Glimpse at Park History

Nearly 100 years ago, Seattle was in its infancy as a city, and civic leaders faced a momentous opportunity to create an enduring legacy with its fledgling parks system.

Flush with cash from the Alaska-Yukon gold rush, Seattle embarked on an ambitious path. In 1903, the City Council hired the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm to develop a comprehensive plan. John Charles Olmsted was the stepson and nephew of the visionary Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., who had co-designed New York City's Central Park.

Olmsted's plan for Seattle was breathtaking in its natural grandeur and geographic reach. It included the city's three largest parks—Volunteer,

Washington and Woodland—in a 20-mile swath of green, linking parks and park boulevards from the shores of Lake Washington to Washington Park and Capitol Hill, north to the University of Washington and Green Lake, southwest to Queen Anne Hill and west to the Magnolia bluffs.



Seattle Municipal Archives

Frink Park: Part of the Olmsted boulevard system.

On October 19, 1903, the City Council approved the plan and for the next eight years, Seattle citizens approved \$3.5 million in bonds that allowed the city to begin implementing the Olmsted plan and buy hundreds of acres of land, doubling the size of the parks system. Cowen, Frink, Schmitz, Leschi, Madrona,

Colman, Ravenna, Green Lake and Seward parks were among the prized acquisitions.

We have the Olmsted firm and our early city leaders to thank for a park system that became one of the finest in the country.

2001 Accomplishments

Major Projects and Programs

Seattle Parks and Recreation's "Capital Improvement Program" or CIP responds to development needs in city neighborhoods and is based on several key planning efforts that included the input of thousands of Seattle residents. These include the Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan 2000, the 38 neighborhood plans, the Joint Athletic Facilities Development Program, the 1999 Seattle Center and Community Center Levy, the 2000 Pro Parks Levy and the Department's annual update of the Major Maintenance Plan.

In 2001, the CIP included 248 projects in 48 programs with 63 fund sources for a total of \$24.6 million. A few of the highlights follow.

2000 Pro Parks Levy

"It's the talk of the town," says Terry Holme, co-president of the Mt. Baker/Lakewood Youth Soccer Club, of the newly resurfaced "upper" soccer field at Genesee Park.



David Takami

The field had deteriorated over the years and was nearly unplayable, especially during the wet fall and winter months. The surface of the west end of the field was uneven, the south edge of the field was too wet to play on, and the grass was dying.

In a few short weeks in the fall of 2001, all of that changed dramatically. A new synthetic surface for the field funded by the 2000 Pro Parks Levy has made all the difference. "Rain or shine, the field can now be fully scheduled for youth and adults," says Holme. "It's a delight for spectators, players and officials and is in great demand."

Over the next eight years, the \$198.2 million Pro Parks Levy will fund more than 100 projects throughout the city. The Levy closely followed the plan forged by a citizens committee, which based its recommendations on park and open space priorities from neighborhood plans and various park plans. In addition to "development" projects like Genesee Park playfield, the Levy funds will buy green spaces, improve pedestrian and bicycle trails, support Zoo programs and maintenance, enhance park maintenance,

Major Projects and Programs

2000 Pro Parks Levy (continued)

boost environmental programs and practices, and expand recreation programs for youth and seniors.

In 2001, we made great strides in implementing all of these Levy programs. What follow are brief highlights of Levy activity. For more information, please visit the web site www.cityofseattle.net/parks and click on Pro Parks Levy, or call (206) 684-8020.

Acquisition Projects

We made several important acquisitions with Pro Parks dollars in 2001:

- **Leschi Natural Area property** at E. Terrace St. and 36th Ave. with a spectacular view of Lake Washington and the Cascades;
- **Mayer Property in Duwamish greenbelt:** 10 acres of property long sought-after by the community for the preservation of wildlife habitat and open space; and
- **67th and Linden** in N. Seattle for small park and possible P-Patch.

Development Projects

- **Genesee Park Playfield:** Phase 1 of the project was completed in October. This included converting "Field No. 2" from natural grass to a synthetic turf surface, pedestrian paths, and parking lot improvements.
- **Ward Springs Park:** Construction began on a spectacular new neighborhood park with great views and strong community participation.
- **Lincoln Reservoir/Bobby Morris Playfield:** Design was completed for the shelter house that will include a multi-purpose activity room, rest-rooms, a plaza and a maintenance building.

Staff began the planning or design phase on 26 other projects in 2001.



Cascade Land Conservancy

Leschi Natural Area

Recreation, Environmental Stewardship, Enhanced Maintenance

The hiring of 21 teen development leaders in the fall of 2001 means that all 23 of our community centers, the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, and the Teen Life Center have teen program staff. The teen leaders

will form “teen councils” at our centers and develop programs and activities that focus on citizenship and leadership, arts and culture, academic achievement, environmental stewardship, sports and fitness, life skills and personal development.

You may have noticed after normal working hours a person in a green Parks truck emptying trash receptacles along Alki Beach, at Green Lake or at Seward Park. Those evening and weekend workers were funded by the Pro Parks Levy and will help us to keep the park system clean, especially during peak use in the summer. We also added more custodians for our community centers and personnel to clean park restrooms.

Levy Oversight Committee and Opportunity Fund

Also in 2001, the Mayor and City Council appointed the 16-member Levy Oversight Committee to help oversee implementation of the Pro Parks Levy. In 2001, the committee recommended Levy acquisition and development projects that received initial Levy funding for 2001-2002. The committee also established criteria and a public process for the first funding cycle of the Levy’s Opportunity Fund, which will fund community-identified projects that could not have been anticipated at the time the Levy package was developed. The committee received 19 acquisition nominations and 25 development project nominations for a total of 44. Opportunity Fund project selections will be made in mid-2002.

See Woodland Park Zoo section for Pro Parks accomplishments at the Zoo.

1999 Community Center Levy

Approved by Seattle voters in 1999, the renewal of the 1991 Seattle Center and Community Centers Levy provided \$36 million to renovate or build nine Parks and Recreation community centers, including completely new facilities in the underserved neighborhoods of Belltown, the International District and Northgate. All projects seek extensive public involvement through public meetings and citizen Project Advisory Teams.

- **International District Community Center:** The Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA) completed the design of the new community center. This center is a joint project between SCIDPDA and Parks. SCIDPDA will build a mixed-use building that will include space for a 14,000-square-foot

Major Projects and Programs

1999 Community Center Levy *(continued)*

community center (including a possible gym), a library, retail space and housing. Construction will likely begin in 2002 and be completed in late 2003.

- **Belltown Community Center:** In 2001, the Board of Park Commissioners approved a location on 1st Ave. between Battery and Bell streets for this urban community center. Parks is working with the property owner to develop this project, which is envisioned as a multi-use building with 6,000 square feet on the first floor for a community center.
- **Yesler Community Center:** Parks completed a siting study in 2001 that resulted in selection of a site at the corner of 10th Ave. and Yesler Way, adjacent to the existing community center. Parks held three community meetings in 2001 to discuss siting. The community is supportive of this location, on the condition that there is no net loss of low-income housing. Having selected Mithun Architects to complete the design, Parks and the Seattle Housing Authority will begin design of the new facility in 2002. It will include housing on the upper floors.
- **Jefferson Community Center Addition (gymnasium):** Parks successfully completed a lengthy and complex siting process for the large

number of projects slated for construction in Jefferson Park over the next few years. The resulting site plan located the new community center gym on the west side of the building. The final Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for release in July 2002.

- **High Point Community Center:** The architectural firm Streeter & Associates was selected as project designer for this expansion of the existing center. Parks has completed a design program, and has been cooperating with the Seattle Housing Authority in planning community facilities for this area.
- **Northgate Community Center:** Parks made progress on selecting a site. Three sites made the "short list" for the center location, including the North Park and Ride Lot, the Bon Tire Site and the South Lot. Parks expects to complete the siting process and acquire land for the new community center in 2002. Parks is working with the Seattle Public Library to co-locate the center with a new branch library.



The Portico Group

Jefferson site plan alternative

- **Sand Point Magnuson Park Community Center:** Based on results of a building assessment, community center improvements will include roof replacement, seismic upgrades, new heating and fire safety systems, improved electrical service, gym renovations, and new rooms in the west wing. The pool and the south wing were eliminated from this phase to keep the remodel costs within the Levy amount. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2002.

Major Maintenance

The term “Major Maintenance” is not likely to grab headlines but it is fundamental to the City’s commitment to customer service and to taking care of our valuable public assets. We spent a total of \$15.1 million on Major Maintenance projects in 2001, completing 42 projects.

Here are a few examples of 2001 accomplishments:

Roxhill Wetlands Restoration: Restoration of a portion of this park as a viable wetlands area with native plantings and restored habitat.

Aurora Avenue Slide Repair: Emergency stabilization of the hillside on the east side of Queen Anne Hill which had caused most trees either to lean or to fall.

Aquarium Re-roofing and Painting: Installation of an entire new roof and flashings and repainting the entire facility, after stripping it of lead paint.

Medgar Evers Pool HVAC: Installation of a new ventilation system and new duct work.

Dahl Playfield: Grading and re-seeding of the playfield and installation of a new irrigation system.

E.C. Hughes Playground: Play area renovation inspired by the community.

Neighborhood Projects

On any given weekend, no matter the weather, volunteers arrive at the job site ready for a day’s work to build a play area, plant trees or re-grade a trail. Judging by the success of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, the vitality of Seattle neighborhoods has never been greater.

Major Projects and Programs

1999 Community Center Levy *(continued)*

Projects in parks routinely receive between 40 and 60 percent of annual Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) grant awards. Seattle Parks and Recreation completed 46 projects in neighborhood parks in 2001 funded through the Department of Neighborhood's NMF. The total award amount was just over \$3 million, matched by contributions of volunteer labor, professional services or cash. This compares to 22 projects and \$237,938 in one year a decade ago.

Projects range from playground renovation at Meridian Park to the removal of ivy at Seward Park, to design and construction of an ornamental gate and traditional Japanese masonry wall at Kubota Garden.

The **Neighborhood Response Fund Program** allocates \$500,000 each year for major maintenance projects identified by individual citizens and neighborhood groups. Although not very glamorous, typical projects such as safety lighting, drinking fountain replacements and new flooring have immediate noticeable impact in parks and community centers.

Athletic Fields

Increased demand for scheduled ballfield time led us, in 2001, to begin a process to update the 1997 Joint Athletic Facilities Development Program, which guides Parks decisions and actions in improving and building sports fields. The plan lists proposed improvements at Parks and School District sites around the city with the intent of creating more safe, high quality athletic facilities without the need to acquire new land.

The 2001-2002 update will include a revised list, a field lighting study and information about field demand, planning and policies. We began an extensive public involvement process in the fall of 2001 and expect to complete the plan in mid-2002.

Also in 2001, we renovated playfields at Genesee Park, Beacon Hill Playground and Rogers Playground, and repaired or replaced backstops at Miller, Judkins, EC Hughes, Ballard, Pinehurst, Fairmont, Roxhill and Lincoln parks. We started design work for a half dozen other fields and collaborated with the School District on the design and development of sports complexes at Ingraham and Rainer Beach high schools. We began scheduling games for these fields in November 2001.

Sand Point Magnuson Park

It is an ambitious and visionary plan: to convert much of the central part of Sand Point Magnuson Park (SPMP) into a vista of integrated sports fields, tennis courts, pathways, an expanded off-leash area, and a natural wetlands and habitat.

In 2001, staff worked with a diverse group of park neighbors, sportsfield users, and environmental experts to forge a coordinated wetlands/sportsfields/drainage project. In the meantime, the popularity of Sand Point Magnuson Park continued to grow as a venue for sports, community events and sales, arts activities, playground visits, swimming and sunbathing, and boat launching.

In 2001, we

- Doubled the number of special events held on-site to 90, including arts festivals, a mycological society forum, summer camps, Eddie Bauer volunteer work day, and others
- Planted 5,000 new plants in the park with the help of volunteers
- Completed the SPMP Public Involvement and Communication Plan
- Completed the Capital Projects Phasing Plan
- Completed the environmental review for the upland portion of the off-leash area, and for the community garden
- Completed the concept design for the athletic complex configuration
- Began construction of off-leash area improvements and community garden improvements
- Began renovation of the community activity center (the former Navy brig)
- Started community center programming
- Completed the Draft EIS for the wetlands, sportsfields and drainage project
- Submitted plans and permit applications for improvements at North Shore for non-motorized boating

Major Projects and Programs

South Lake Union

We are moving ahead with implementing the vision for this unique waterfront park. Over the course of 2001, the Neptune Building was demolished and a grass meadow was planted in its place. The design, engineering and permit processes for the improved South Lake Union Wharf at the Armory Building were also completed. The renovated wharf will accommodate the resident fleet of historic vessels, including the Virginia V, the Arthur Foss and the Fireboat Duwamish.

In a happy turn of events, the Washington State Historical Society's \$400,000 matching grant, which had been included in the State's capital funding freeze, was later re-released as part of an economic stimulus package. These funds, along with a \$1 million award from the Kreielsheimer Foundation and \$20,000 from the King County Cultural Facilities Program, allowed Phase 1 of the wharf project to commence in the late fall of 2001. Phase 1, which includes all in-water work, is scheduled to be completed in mid-April 2002.

The Maritime Heritage Foundation is pursuing funding opportunities for completion of the wharf to provide moorage for five historic vessels, as a first step in their long-term plans for a Maritime Heritage Center.

Arboretum Master Plan

In May 2001, the City Council unanimously approved the long-range master plan for the Washington Park Arboretum that will serve as a blueprint for improvements at the Arboretum for the next 20 years. The Council made minor changes to the plan and included implementation guidelines. The approval was the culmination of seven years of planning and an extensive public process that considered the many varied uses of this multi-purpose park and botanical garden.

Gray to Green

Until last year, the playground on the west side of Orca School in south-east Seattle was an unattractive expanse of cracked and broken asphalt, surrounded by rusted fencing. Paint was peeling off the school building.

With the help of the Gray to Green program, a collaboration among Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Seattle School District and the community,



Maureen Colaizzi

Gray to Green project at Orca School.

the site was transformed with colorful murals on the school building, a new playground and perimeter planting beds.

The Gray to Green Program is a partnership with the School District to improve recreation and green spaces at public schools for use by both school students and the surrounding communities. The Gray to Green Program also mobilized neighborhoods, PTAs and other partners. Nine projects were completed in 2001 at the following schools: Pinehurst AS-1, Lawton, TT Minor, McGilvra, Thurgood Marshall, Pathfinder, Arbor Heights, Orca at Columbia, and Dearborn Park.

New Parks

We opened two new parks in the spring of 2001, Cormorant Cove Park in the Alki neighborhood of West Seattle, and Herring's House Park along the west side of the Duwamish Waterway. Land for both parks was purchased in the 1990s through the Shoreline Park Improvement Fund (mitigation



Pam Kliment

Cormorant Cove Park

money from Metro in compensation for the expansion of its West Point sewage treatment plant). Lezlie Jane and the Alki community spearheaded the development of Cormorant Cove Park. Herring's House Park was a unique collaboration among federal, county, City and tribal agencies.

In addition, with a combination of City and King County and private funds, we bought the 3.2-acre Hitt's Hill property in Southeast Seattle.

Elsewhere, we bought property at 10 Broad St. that will be part of the new Olympic Sculpture Park; and purchased property in the Georgetown neighborhood that may become the future site of the old Hat 'N Boots drive-in structures.

Major Projects and Programs *(continued)*

Emergency Response

In 2001, Parks staff responded quickly and effectively to a number of unforeseen emergencies:

- **Pioneer Square Pergola:** The historic Pergola collapsed in January 2001 when a large truck struck one of the supports. Immediately afterwards, the Mayor and Seattle Parks made a commitment to rebuild it. Under the direction of Parks staff, Seidelhuber Iron and Bronze Works has spent more than a year doing the painstaking repair work, which includes an entirely new interior steel structural “skeleton.” The Pergola is expected to be up and open to the public by fall 2002.

- **Nisqually Earthquake:** Several parks facilities suffered major structural damage, including the Green Lake Small Craft Center and the Green Lake Community Center. When the quake hit in late February 2001, staff at community centers and pools made sure people in their care were safe. Program and technical staff immediately checked buildings and land for damage, assessing possible repairs and working with FEMA officials to seek repair funding.



Workers mend the Pergola.

Joelle Ligon

- **September 11 Aftermath:** Public parks became places for communal grief and solace, including Westlake Park, Alki Beach Park, Meadowbrook Community Center, Golden Gardens, Green Lake, Gas Works Park, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park. Our staff issued permits and helped children in their care cope by working on letters and artwork for families of the victims.

Seattle Parks Foundation

The Foundation hired its first executive director, Karen Daubert. Under Karen's leadership, the Foundation has already funded several neighborhood projects (Thyme Patch Park entryway and three southeast Seattle Gray to Green projects), and has selected South Lake Union Park as its signature park project. The Seattle Parks Foundation provides funds and advocacy to preserve, expand and improve the quality of Seattle's parks, green spaces and programs.

2001 Accomplishments

Recreation Programs

Seattle Parks and Recreation is in the business of providing safe and welcoming opportunities to learn, relax and recreate. Our 24 community centers, 10 swimming pools, four environmental education centers, playfields and park play areas are busy hubs of activity in all seasons of the year, serving hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors.

In 2001, our community centers recorded 2.4 million visits, attendance at the Seattle Tennis Center topped 97,000, and staff scheduled 57,000 athletic games and events.

The Pro Parks Levy will help us extend our reach in communities with more programs and activities for teens and seniors, and free swimming lessons for public school third and fourth graders.

Among the recreation highlights:

Project Lift-Off

Project Lift-Off is Seattle's blueprint for launching young people toward successful, productive adult lives through a coordinated system of programs and activities for children while they're not in school.

As the lead agency for the youth (ages 12 to 18) portion of Project Lift-Off, Seattle Parks made good progress toward improving the quality and quantity of out-of-school activities.

In summary:

YES program increase: Middle school participation increased by 25% in the YES Program (Youth Engaged in Service) that involves teens in 80 hours of service over four weeks each summer.

DSHS certification: The State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) certified all Parks out-of-school-time programs for kids ages 5 to 12 years old. These sites are now eligible to accept DSHS subsidies for families who qualify.

Plan to Inspire Youth Leadership and Engagement: Parks staff, working with the Youth Community Committee, completed a plan that prioritizes recommendations for programs and services.

"Preference Plan": This is a pilot project started in two middle schools to help youth develop and use their own after-school schedule.

Recreation Programs

Project Lift-Off *(continued)*



Dave Gilbertson

Pro Parks Teen Development Leaders

21st-Century Learning Center: Denny Middle School was the site of this learning center in fall 2001, offering high quality programs for longer hours after school.

Learning Standards: Parks has aligned existing after-school-programs with Seattle Public Schools Learning Standards.

Pro Parks Levy activities: A number of Lift-Off activities are funded through the Levy, including new staff at the Garfield Teen Life Center, 21 new teen development leaders working at our community centers, 18 high school interns, swimming lessons for third and fourth graders in Seattle Public Schools, and improved transportation and scholarships for our youth summer programs.

Advisory Councils

Advisory Councils provide a substantial supplement to Parks recreational offerings by supplying \$8 million in programming annually.

Even in the face of an economic downturn after the events of Sept. 11, year-end financial reports confirmed the health of the advisory council system and reaffirmed the popularity of recreation programs, classes and activities. The 27-year partnership among Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) and the 37 advisory councils continued to be a strong one.

Investments in training staff set the tone for the partnership in 2001. Before and After School program staff from each site received training as part of the department-wide effort to achieve certification from the State Department of Social and Health Services. In addition, site staff from community centers and pools went through "Dollars and Sense" cash handling training to improve advisory council transaction processing and service at the counter.

Revenues for the combined activity of all the councils grew at a respectable 4% for the year. General operating expenses only increased by 1%. ARC service fees for the year were down by 1% over the same period last year. Maturing investment income was equal to last year's.

2001 Accomplishments

Park Resources

Seattle Parks and Recreation owns 6,000 acres of parkland, about 10 percent of the City's total land acreage, and a central part of our mission is the stewardship of this land.

Park Inspections

One measure of how well we take care of existing resources is the cleanliness of parks and park facilities. In 2001, Parks staff began a Parks Inspection Program to assess the condition and cleanliness of parks, boulevards, playgrounds, and gardens.

Parks crew chiefs in the North, Central and South divisions inspected 10 randomly selected parks in each division each month, rating the parks on specific cleanliness criteria. The program also established maintenance goals for various park elements such as turf areas, shrub beds, trails, play areas and rest rooms.

Environmental Stewardship

We have taken great strides in fulfilling the "environmental stewardship" part of our department's mission. Accomplishments in 2001 include:

- **BMPs:** We trained staff in our comprehensive Best Management Practices (BMPs) for various maintenance activities.
- **Pesticide reduction:** Our efforts to reduce pesticide use in our parks included the establishment of 14 "pesticide-free" parks throughout the city.
- **Conservation:** We reduced water and energy consumption by more than 10 percent in response to 2001's drought and energy crisis.
- **Forest Resource Management:** We worked to restore our urban forest through the removal of non-native invasive plants and replanting with native plants.
- **Creek/Wetland Restoration:** We continued our partnership with Seattle Public Utilities to restore critical areas near urban creeks. One erosion repair project on Fauntleroy Creek was completed in 2001.



©Beth Miller, WAVE Photography

Spawning Salmon.

- **ESA:** We worked with the citywide Endangered Species Act (ESA) team and played a major role in habitat restoration efforts through creek work, green space acquisition, land and plant management, and education and programming. In particular, we have restored shoreline areas at Herring's House Park, Seward Park and Lake Washington Blvd.
- **Environmental education:** Thanks to the Pro Parks Levy, we've created a new centralized unit to help focus and shape all of our environmental education and stewardship programs. Our goal is to provide new opportunities and offer programs that foster awareness, appreciation, and knowledge of the natural environment. Along with our environmental education centers at Discovery Park, Carkeek Park, Camp Long and Seward Park, our 24 community centers will become community focal points for environmental stewardship.

Volunteer Programs

In the past decade, we've greatly expanded our collaboration with volunteers by forming community-based "Adopt-a-Park" groups, and organizing volunteer "work parties" to help restore neighborhood parks. These involve park neighbors, school classes, corporate employee volunteer groups, environmental organizations, and other community groups. Volunteers work as docents at the Zoo and Aquarium, as coaches and recreation leaders at our community centers, and as park restoration workers in parks, trails and open spaces.

In 2001, hundreds of volunteers contributed more than 246,000 hours of work to the department. Figured at \$14 per hour, this represents an amazing \$3.4 million worth of labor.

Here are a few highlights:

- Families in Magnolia adopted and cared for more than 120 newly planted trees along Magnolia Blvd.
- Volunteers helped with the many, many visitors who came to the Zoo to see baby elephant Hansa during her first year.
- Students from Pathfinder School spent a day at a plant salvage site, doing art and math, writing, learning about the energy cycle and salvaging plants for their continuing restoration project in Mee-Kwa-Mooks Park.



**Wallingford Playfield
volunteers.**

David Takami

2001 Accomplishments

Woodland Park Zoo

2001 was clearly the Year of the Elephant at Woodland Park Zoo with the baby Asian elephant Hanza, born in November 2000, as the star attraction. Local and national publicity resulted in crowds lining up to see her through the summer of 2001. The interest in Hanza and the opening of the new African Village in May gave the Zoo its most successful year ever with more than 1.2 million visitors.



Hanza

Dennis Conner/Woodland Park Zoo

The African Village at the edge of the Savanna Exhibit was funded by a generous donation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In the fall of 2000, construction began on the African Wild Dog exhibit in the old hyena area near the Savanna lion exhibit. This canid exhibit, which opened in the Summer of 2001, eliminated the old barred enclosure in favor of a naturalistic exhibit replicating the dog's grassland home.

The Zoo also completed an update to the original 1976 Long-Range Plan. The plan will guide future development of the Zoo over the next decade. It calls for upgrading the remainder of the Zoo's older outmoded exhibits.

In December 2001, the City Council approved the Zoo's move to non-profit management. While the City will still own the grounds and facilities, the Woodland Park Zoological Society will manage the Zoo and provide for future capital funding for new exhibits and facilities.

Also in 2001, the Zoo began implementing the Pro Parks Levy-funded projects which added \$2.5 million to its annual operating funding for increased animal care, education programs, maintenance, security and first aid, admissions, the web site and information technology. One new initiative funded by Pro Parks was the School to Zoo Program, which pays for Zoo admission, curriculum materials, and transportation for low-income students in the Seattle School District.

2001 Accomplishments

Seattle Aquarium

In 2001, we identified the “south option” as the preferred location for the new Pacific Northwest Aquarium, after completing an extensive feasibility study. A specially convened citizens advisory committee, the Board of Park Commissioners, and the Seattle Aquarium Society (SEAS) strongly endorsed this direction. The site is currently occupied by the existing Aquarium and Waterfront Park.

In March, the City Council approved the 2001 Work Program for the project, allowing Parks and SEAS to proceed with concept design work, and to initiate work on a supplemental EIS. The total cost for the new aquarium is estimated to be \$180 million. SEAS has contacted key potential donors to determine the feasibility of raising the necessary private funds.



Aquarium staff tend to sea turtle.

Leo Shaw

In other news: Successful special events increased audience and attendance such as: Jazz nights at the Aquarium, Trick or Treat at the Aquarium and the Five Days After Christmas; the death of a sea otter pup was tragic but taught us valuable lessons that we will share with other zoos and aquariums; 24-year-old Doc, a harbor seal, died, as did Buster, a 17-year-old Northern fur seal, the first bred, born and raised to adulthood in captivity.

We successfully rehabilitated an Olive Ridley sea turtle in partnership with the Woodland Park Zoo. The turtle was beached off the Washington coastline, far north of its warm-water habitat.

2001 Accomplishments

Partnerships

As public funding becomes scarcer and more endangered, innovative partnerships become increasingly critical to our ability to fulfill our mission. In 2001, Seattle Parks teamed with other City departments, outside agencies and businesses and community groups on scores of projects of common interest and benefit. Among the highlights:

- **Major League Baseball-Seattle Mariners All-Star Legacy Grant:** Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Seattle Mariners awarded Seattle Parks a \$1 million grant to build a first-class baseball venue at Lower Woodland Park Field #1 and make improvements to the cloverleaf fields. The grant funds came from the proceeds of 2001 All-Star Week activities.
- **Seattle School District:** The School District continued to be a major partner on the Joint Athletics Facilities Development Program, the After-School Activities Program (ASAP), the Gray to Green Program and the School-Parks agreement, under which the District and Parks share many buildings and outdoor spaces for the benefit of both agencies' users.

One example of this collaboration is ASAP, which in 2001 ran after-school programs at 18 Seattle middle schools.

- **Seattle Housing Authority (SHA):** Parks is partnering with SHA on several projects, including the development of the new Yesler Community Center and improvements to the High Point and Van Asselt community centers in southeast Seattle. Yesler, High Point and Van Asselt Community Center staff also collaborate regularly with SHA.

- **Seattle Art Museum:** Last spring, the City bought .3 acres of property at 10 Broad St. (\$3.6 million) as part of the land package needed for the development of the Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park. The park will be developed on six acres of land near

the waterfront north of Broad St. and south of Myrtle Edwards Park.

- **Other key partners include:** National Audubon Society, Starbucks, Seattle Public Utilities, Department of Neighborhoods, University of Washington, Maritime Heritage Foundation.



Mariners Legacy Project.

2001 Budget/Finances

Seattle Parks and Recreation's annual budget is approximately \$95 million.

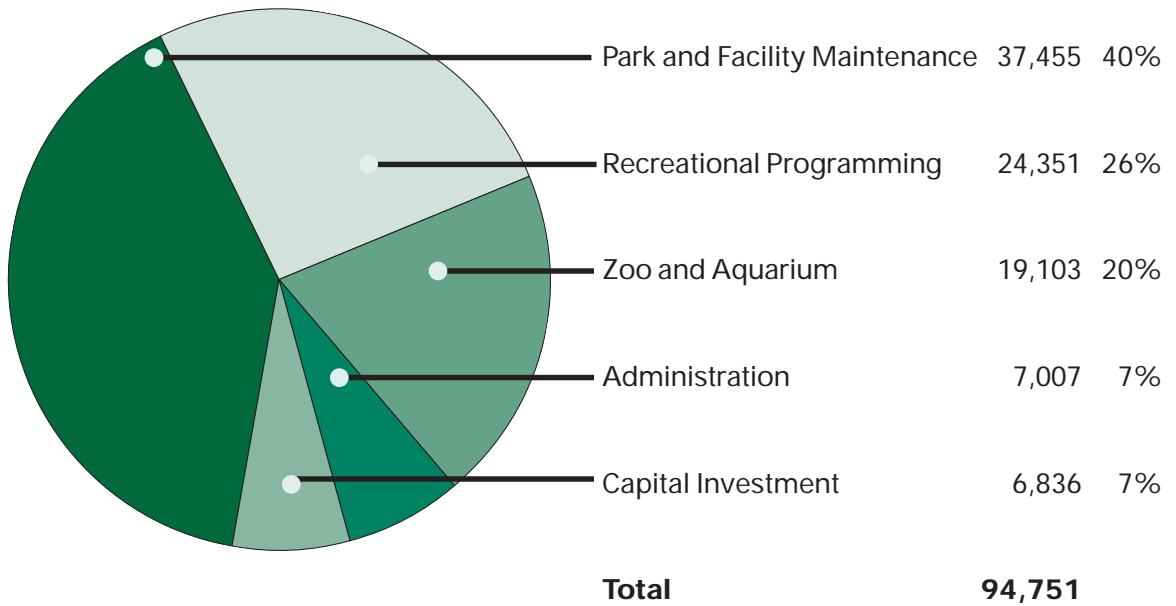
Expenditures

In 2001, the Department budgeted approximately 40 percent of its expenditures to care for existing parks, open space, playfields, golf courses, community centers, and other important assets. The next largest commitment was to recreational programming, including operating and staffing community centers, environmental education and arts facilities, and pools; offering programs for children, teens, adults, and seniors; and scheduling space for everything from youth soccer leagues to weddings and picnics. The Zoo and Aquarium received funding of about \$19 million, or 20 percent of the total, but much of this was recovered from fees paid by visitors enjoying these attractions. Finally, about \$14 million was budgeted for the Department's capital projects division and for management and administration functions.

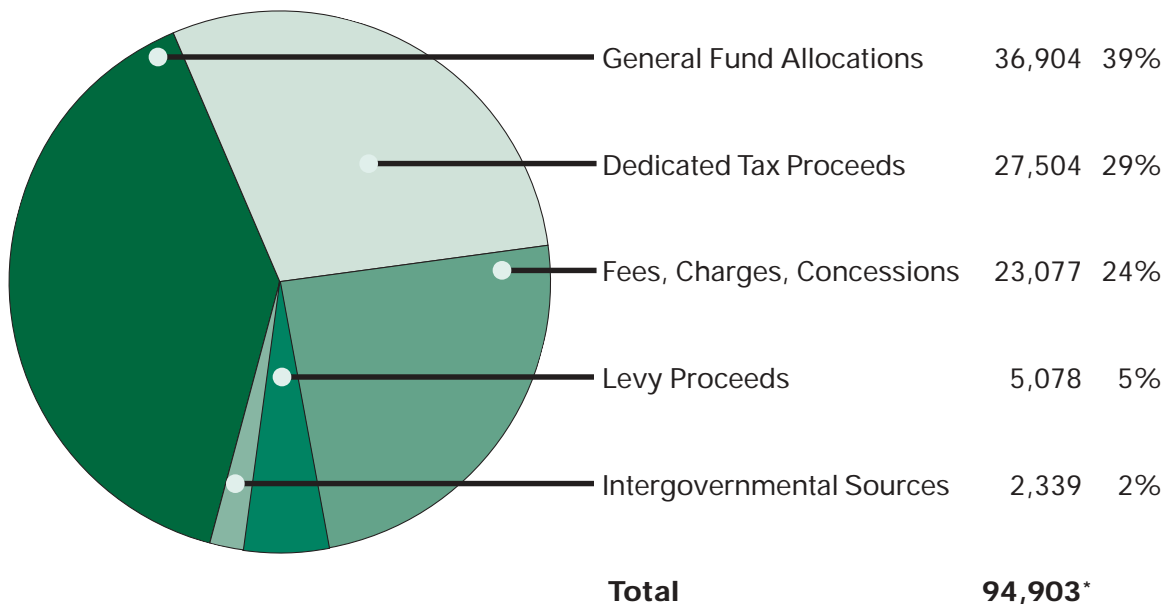
Revenues

Funding for budgeted expenditures derives partly from support offered by general revenues collected and distributed by the City of Seattle, but also from an array of other tax, fee, and grant proceeds collected specifically for parks activities. Approximately \$37 million in proceeds from general revenues to the City of Seattle was budgeted to cover about 40 percent of total expenditures in 2001. An additional \$28 million was expected from so-called "Charter Revenues" — a 10 percent share of proceeds from certain citywide taxes dedicated specifically to parks uses per the Seattle City Charter. Fees, charges, private contributions, and concession revenues cover a full quarter of the annual budget. Proceeds from special levies and grants from other public agencies round out the picture, contributing about \$7 million to the overall revenue picture in 2001. This amount is expected to grow in the future, as new property acquisitions, development projects, and programming initiatives come on line thanks to Seattle voters' passage of the Pro Parks Levy in November 2000.

2001 Budgeted Expenditures by Line of Business



2001 Budgeted Revenues by Line of Business



*The excess revenues shown above were held in reserve.

Quick Facts

General

2001 operating budget \$94,751,000
2001 employees (930 full-time equivalents) 1,345
Seattle population 540,500
Seattle area 84 square miles
King County population 1,595,000
Greater Seattle area population 3,190,000
Largest Park Discovery Park (534 acres)
Oldest Park Denny Park (1884)
Unique Parks

Camp Long (urban rock climbing and camping)
Gas Works Park (former natural gas plant)
Freeway Park (five acres constructed over I-5)
I-90 Lid parks (28 acres of parks over I-90)
Sand Point Magnuson Park (converted Navy base)
Schmitz Park (old growth forest)

Gardens

Bradner Gardens Park
Katie Black's Garden
Kubota Gardens
Parson's Garden
Japanese Garden (including teahouse)
Volunteer Park and Conservatory
Washington Park Arboretum
Woodland Park Rose Garden

Parks and open areas

185 athletic fields
Biking and pedestrian trails:
8.2 miles Burke-Gilman
5 miles Discovery Park
2.8 miles Green Lake
1 mile, Alki Beach
18 boulevards (22 miles)
130 children's play areas
38 green spaces (490 acres)
5 golf courses, including pitch/putt (449 acres)
2 lawn bowling greens
61 local parks (834 acres)
13 major urban or regional parks (2,236 acres)
3 moorages
18 fishing piers, docks, boat ramps
38 neighborhood playgrounds (135 acres)
33 playfields (413 acres)
62 squares, places, triangles (27 acres)
Many shorelines (24 miles)
9 swimming beaches
Rock climbing site and urban camping (Camp Long)

Acreage

6,006 acres (about 10% of the City's total land area)
4,562 acres developed
1,444 acres undeveloped (including 954 acres of submerged land)

Facilities

488 with over a million square feet of space, including:

24 administrative offices and headquarters
4 amphitheaters
1 aquarium:
16 major and 89 smaller exhibits
366 species
27,890 specimens
2 boating and sailing centers
90 comfort stations
24 community centers
12 concession facilities
7 historic buildings
4 major maintenance facilities
2 museums
4 nature interpretive centers
151 outdoor tennis courts (71 with lights)
6 performing and visual art facilities
80 picnic shelters and houses
3 plant nurseries/greenhouses (Volunteer Park Conservatory with five distinct climatic zones)
16 residences and cabins
1 stadium
10 swimming pools (two outdoor)
1 tennis center: (ten indoor courts/four outdoor courts)
27 wading pools
3 water play areas
1 zoo: 90 acres
45 major exhibits and buildings
265 species
1,147 specimens
3,000 invertebrates

City of Seattle

Greg Nickels, *Mayor*

Peter Steinbrueck, *Seattle City Council President; Chair, Parks, Education and Libraries Committee*

Bruce Bentley, *Chair, Seattle Board of Park Commissioners*

Ken Bounds, *Superintendent*

Patricia McInturff, *Deputy Superintendent*

Sarah Welch, *Director, Finance, Budget and Administrative Services*

Christopher Williams, *Director, South Division*

Herbye White, *Director, Central Division*

Margaret Anthony, *Director, North Division*

C. David Hughbanks, *Director, Sand Point Magnuson Park*

Fritz Hedges, *Director, Citywide Division*

Woody Wilkinson, *Director, Facilities and Maintenance Division*

Erin Devoto, *Director, Planning and Development Division*

Mike Waller, *Acting Director, Woodland Park Zoo*

Bill Arntz, *Director, Seattle Aquarium*

Special thanks to former Mayor Paul Schell and former City Council Parks Committee Chair Nick Licata.

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General information

Please visit our web site for much more information about Seattle Parks and Recreation: www.cityofseattle.net/parks or call (206) 684-4075.

*This report was prepared by David Takami, editor and
Margarite Hargrave, graphic designer.*

